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costs our country 200,000 lives a year and the entire world a million lives a year, besides constituting a most serious handicap to material progress, prosperity, and happiness, and being an enormous expense to society, most often in those walks of life where the burden is least bearable.

Science has demonstrated that this disease can be stamped out, but the rapidity and completeness with which this can be accomplished depend upon the promptness with which the new doctrines about tuberculosis can be inculcated into the minds of the people and engrafted upon our customs, habits, and laws. The presence in our midst of representatives of world-wide workers in this magnificent cause gives an unusual opportunity for accelerating the educational part of the programme.

The modern crusade against tuberculosis brings hope and bright prospects of recovery to hundreds and thousands of victims of the disease, who, under old teachings, were abandoned to despair. The work of this congress will bring the results of the latest studies and investigations before the profession at large and place in the hands of our physicians all the newest and most approved methods of treating the disease—a knowledge which will add many years of valuable life to our people, and will thereby increase our public wealth and happiness.

The International Congress on Tuberculosis is in the interest of universal peace. By joining in such a warfare against a common foe the peoples of the world are brought closer together and made to better realize the brotherhood of man; for a united interest against a common foe fosters universal friendship. Our country, which is honored this year as the host of other nations in this great gathering of leaders and experts, and as the custodian of the magnificent exhibit which will be set up by the entire world, should manifest its appreciation by giving the congress a setting worthy of the cause, of our guests, and of ourselves. We should endeavor to make it the greatest and the most fruitful congress which has yet been held, and I assure you of my interest and services to that end.

With expressions of appreciation for the compliment conferred in extending the invitation to become president of the congress,

Very respectfully,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Statistics of plague in California.

Total cases of plague at San Francisco verified bacteriologically to May 16, 121; total cases verified clinically, 38; total deaths, 77. The last case at San Francisco was taken sick January 30 and confirmed by bacteriological examination as plague February 8, 1908. Date of finding of last plague-infected rat, May 16.

The last case at Oakland, Cal., died December 22, 1907. The last plague-infected rats at Oakland were found during the week ended April 11, 1908. The only case at Berkeley, Cal., died September 1, 1907. The only case at Point Richmond, Cal., was taken sick November 27, 1907, and recovered.

Reports from San Francisco, Cal.—Plague-prevention work at San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Emeryville, and in Contra Costa County, Cal.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue reports:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Week ended May 16.

Sick inspected	25
Dead inspected	122
Premises inspected	18, 878
Houses disinfected	140
Houses destroyed	2
Buildings condemned	3
Nuisances abated	3, 375